

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----061670 101710Z /43

O 101649Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8971  
INFO USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

S E C R E T CAIRO 12619

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR EG XF  
SUBJECT: SADAT ON NUMAYRI VISIT

1. WHEN MEETING WITH SADAT AND VP TODAY AT MIT ABUL  
KOM, I ASKED ABOUT JUST-CONCLUDED NUMAYRI VISIT.  
SADAT SAID HE HAD HAD SEVEN HOURS OF DISCUSSION WITH  
NUMAYRI IN ALEXANDRIA. HE THOUGHT NUMAYRI ARAB  
SOLIDARITY MISSION IS PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY. HE  
HAD INDICATED TO NUMAYRI THAT HE IS PREPARED TO ATTEND  
AN ARAB SUMMIT, AT WHATEVER TIME AND PLACE IS  
DECIDED UPON, BUT THAT HE IS NOT PREPARED TO RENOUNCE  
HIS PEACE INITIATIVE AS THE PRICE FOR SUCH A MEETING.

2. NUMAYRI, ACCORDING TO SADAT, HAD CLAIMED MOST OF THE  
ARAB LEADERS ARE NOT ASKING FOR THIS. EVEN ASSAD HAD  
BEEN REASONABLE. ASSAD HAD EMPHASIZED HIS CONTINUING  
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DESIRE FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. IN CONTRAST TO  
SYRIAN PUBLIC MEDIA AND KHADDAM STATEMENT, ASSAD HAD  
NOT REPEAT NOT ASKED THAT SADAT RENOUNCE PEACE INITIATIVE  
OR CUT LINKS WITH ISRAEL SO LONG AS SADAT HAS ANY  
HOPE THAT SOMETHING WILL COME OUT OF THESE EFFORTS.  
ASSAD HAD SAID THAT IF SADAT CONCLUDES THAT THERE IS  
NO HOPE THAT THE PEACE INITIATIVE WILL SUCCEED, THE

EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SHOULD THEN DECLARE IT TO THE WORLD.  
NUMAYRI HAD SEVERAL TIMES REPEATED THIS POSITION OF  
ASSAD.

3. WHEN NUMAYRI HAD RELATED TO BOTH ASSAD AND IRAQI  
PRESIDENT AL BAKR THE DETAILS OF SADAT'S PEACE INITIA-  
TIVE, SADAT SAID, BOTH OF THEM HAD AGREED WITH IT  
"80 PERCENT." NUMAYRI HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT SADAT WAS  
NOT SEEKING A SEPARATE BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL,  
BUT A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. THIS, ACCORDING TO  
NUMAYRI'S ACCOUNT, HAD A SALUTARY EFFECT.

4. NUMAYRI IS CONTINUING HIS MISSION WITH SADAT'S  
AGREEMENT TO ATTEND THE SUMMIT WHENEVER ONE IS CALLED  
AND AT WHATEVER PLACE IS DESIGNATED. SADAT SAID HE  
HAD MADE CLEAR TO NUMAYRI, HOWEVER, THAT EGYPT IS NOT  
READY TO CUT ITS DIALOGUE WITH THE ISRAELIS. GOE HAS  
DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE ISRAELIS AND WILL MAINTAIN IT.  
HE HAD NEVERTHELESS MADE ONE "CONCESSION" TO FACILITATE  
NUMAYRI'S TASK. HE HAD AGREED THAT BETWEEN NOW AND  
WHENEVER AN ARAB SUMMIT CONVENES, ANY DIRECT CONTACTS  
WITH ISRAEL WILL NOT RPT NOT TAKE PLACE IN CAIRO OR  
EGYPT ITSELF, BUT IN ANOTHER COUNTRY, SUCH AS ROMANIA.  
ANY SUCH CONTACTS, SADAT HAD INSISTED, MUST BE PUBLIC.  
ASKED HOW THIS MIGHT AFFECT POSSIBLE WEIZMAN VISIT,  
SADAT SAID THAT IF WEIZMAN ASKS TO COME, HE WILL  
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SUGGEST THAT A MEETING TAKE PLACE IN BUCHAREST OR ANY  
OTHER COUNTRY PWO D, WILL BE  
ANNOUNCED.

5. NUMAYRI HAD EMPHASIZED THAT IT IS THE "FORM"  
RATHER THAN THE SUBSTANCE OF THE SADAT INITIATIVE THAT  
TROUBLES ASSAD AND AL BAKR. BOTH LEADERS, IN NUMAYRI'S  
VIEW, ARE COMING AROUND TO A MORE SENSIBLE POSITION.  
AL BAKR, NUMAYRI HAD TOLD HIM, WAS NOT HAPPY ABOUT  
SADAT'S ACTION IN SEVERING RELATIONS WITH IRAQ. AL  
BAKR HAD POINTED OUT THAT IRAQ HAD NOT SIGNED THE  
TRIPOLI REJECTIONIST FRONTCOMMUNIQUE. SADAT AUTHORIZED  
NUMAYRI TO INFORM AL BAKR THAT AT ANY TIME IRAQ IS  
READY TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, GOE WILL ALSO BE  
PREPARED TO DO SO.

6. NUMAYRI, SADAT NOTED, WILL RETURN TO CAIRO ON FRIDAY  
FOR FURTHER TALKS.

7. COMMENT: WHETHER NUMAYRI'S ACCOUNT OF ASSAD'S AND  
AL BAKR'S REACTIONS IS A TRUE READING OR SIMPLY A GLOSS  
FOR SADAT'S BENEFIT IS UNCERTAIN. SADAT AT LEAST

BELIEVES ASSAD AND PERHAPS AL BAKR'S POSITIONS ARE  
SOFTENING. ALTHOUGH SADAT SAYS HE INSISTED ON MAIN-  
TAINING HIS DIRECT DIALOGUE WITH THE ISRAELIS, LATTER  
WILL DOUBTLESS BE DISTURBED TO HEAR THAT THE PRESIDENT  
AGREED ANY FURTHER MEETINGS WITH ISRAELIS BETWEEN NOW  
AND ARAB SUMMIT (WHENEVER IT TAKES PLACE) WILL  
BE OUTSIDE RATHER THAN INSIDE EGYPT. THIS IN EFFECT  
MEANS WEIZMAN (OR DAYAN) WILL NOT HAVE DIRECT CONTACT  
WITH SADAT AND IS CERTAIN LESSEN VALUE OF SUCH MEETINGS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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